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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,293

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50, 53-58, 61 and 63-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 51, 52, 59, 60 and 62 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: "a team member interface adapted display" is grammatically incorrect. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-47, 49, 50, 53-58, 61, and 63-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,365).

As to claim 1, Tang teaches distributed application for facilitating collaboration between geographically-dispersed members of a team, comprising:

a collaboration services suite adapted to establish a communications session between two or more members of the team using one of a plurality of communications media in response to a request from any one of the team members using dynamic presence and availability information respecting each team member (col. 3 lines 32-41, col. 4 lines 14-28, and fig. 3); and

a team member interface adapted display the dynamic presence and availability information to each member of the team, and to permit a team member to request

initiation by the collaboration services suite of a communications session with at least one other team member (figs. 1A-8).

As to claim 2, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1 wherein the collaboration services suite maintains detailed information respecting team members and communications devices associated with team members, the detailed information being used to initiate communications sessions on receipt of the request from any team member (user preferences, col. 8 lines 1-28 and figs. 1A-8, and col. 14 lines 40-52).

As to claim 3, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 2 wherein the team member interface displays only graphical information respecting other team member's communications devices, and team members initiate a communications session without requiring knowledge of a device type, device location or device address of a communications device associated with another team member with which a communications session is established by the collaboration services suite (col. 3 lines 53-59).

As to claim 4, Tang teaches distributed application as claimed in claim 3 wherein the graphical information displayed by the team member interface is derived in part from an active profile for each team member (user preferences, col. 8 lines 1-28 and figs. 1A-8).

As to claim 5, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 4 wherein the graphical information displayed by the team member interface is derived in part from the dynamic presence information obtained by determining the presence and state of communications devices specified in the active profile (col. 5, line 56-col. 6, line 13, and figs. 1A, 2, and 7).

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As to claim 6, Tang teaches distributed application as claimed in claim 1 wherein the team member initiates the communications session by selecting a communications icon associated with a personal identifier that represents the at least one other team member (identification information, col. 11 lines 38-45, and a user logs on, col. 14 lines 64-66).

As to claim 7, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1 wherein the team member initiates the communications session by opening a communications session initiation window, and dragging a personal identifier that represents the at least one other team member into a predetermined area of the window (drag and drop, col. 8 lines 29-51).

As to claim 8, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 6 wherein the team member opens a communications session initiation window by performing an activation operation using a pointing device, after selecting the communications icon (point and click operations, col. 9 lines 1-5).

As to claim 9, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 6 wherein the communications session initiation window permits the team member to optionally enter a topic to be discussed during the communications session (to update the cat room window with text or other data, col. 11 lines 49-55).

As to claim 10, Tang inherently teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 9 wherein the communications session initiation window further permits the team member to optionally enter an invitation message related to the communications session because Tang's operation environment uses video, audio, microphone, email, and the like in communications between team members (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8); therefore,

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users can setup to send invitation messages by email or by other communication devices to team members whenever new messages or important news have arrived.

As to claim 11, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 9 wherein the communications session initiation window further permits the team member to attach meeting notes input during the communications session (message, col. 8 lines 52-56).

As to claim 12, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 6 wherein a start communications session message is sent to the collaboration services suite when the team member performs a selection to begin the communications session (enter a chat room, col. 9 lines 6-21).

As to claim 13, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 12 wherein the message sent to the collaboration services suite is received by a connection manager that is adapted to initiate the communications session in response to the message received from the team member (col. 9 lines 6-55).

As to claim 14, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 13, wherein the message comprises at least one of:

information indicative of a type of communications session to be initiated (topic, col. 9 lines 38-62, and fig. 9); and

Tang inherently shows a personal identifier associated with the at least one other team member invited to join the communications session because Tang's operating environment uses video, audio, microphone, email, and the like in communications between team members (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8); therefore, users can setup the email to

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send new messages or important news arrive to all other teams (or new teams) throughout a Network.

As to claim 15, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 6, wherein selecting a communications device associated with the other team member is accomplished by selecting one of a plurality of communications icons using one or more of:

information indicative of one of a voice, text or multi-media type of communications session (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8); and

preference information provided by the other team member and indicative of one or more preferred communications devices to be used for communications sessions (col. 13 lines 1-12, col. 14 line 18 and fig. 3).

As to claim 16, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collaboration services suite maintains a session record including session information related to respective communications sessions (A chat room database, col. 11 lines 37-57).

As to claim 17, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 16, wherein the session information comprises at least one of:

a participant record identifying each team member participating in the communications session; and a topic of the communications session (figs. 3, 5, and 7-8).

As to claim 18, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 16, wherein the team member interface is adapted to enable a team member to interact with the collaboration services suite to mark the communications session as either one of a public and a private communications session (level of privacy each worker desires, col. 5 lines 36, and only see a limited set of information, col. 10 lines 25-36).

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As to claim 19, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 17, wherein the team member interface is adapted to display at least a portion of the session information respecting each public communications session to every member of the team (fig. 5).

As to claim 20, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 17, wherein the team member interface is adapted to display at least a portion of the session information respecting a private communications session to only those members of the team who are participants in the private communications session (all group members share a common base of information, col. 10 lines 44-50).

As to claim 21, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 16, wherein the respective session record is archived following completion of the communications session (fig. 9).

As to claim 22, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to facilitate exchange of text messages between team members participating in a communications session (figs. 5 and 8).

As to claim 23, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1, wherein a session window of the team member interface displays for each public communications session at least one of:

a team identifier; a discussion topic; and a personal identifier associated with each party to the communications session (identification information, col. 11 lines 38-45, a user logs on, col. 14 lines 64-66, and figs. 1A, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9).

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As to claim 24, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1, wherein a archive record is stored each time a communications session is terminated and the archive record comprises at least one of:

a communications session type; a team identifier; a discussion topic; a personal identifier associated with each party to the communications session (see claim 23 above);

a session start and stop time; a session identification number; and

any text messages exchanged between the parties during the communications session (col. 7 lines 29-55, and see claim 23 above).

As to claim 25, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 24 wherein the personal identifier is a team member identifier if the party is a team member (col. 7 lines 35-42).

As to claim 26, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to track each communications session, and to store an address of a preferred text communications device associated with each team member that is a participant in the communications session, so that text messages associated with the communications session are forwarded to the preferred text communications device of each participant (figs. 5-6).

As to claim 27, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 26, wherein the selected text communications device is selected using preference information provided by the respective team member to the collaboration services suite (a communications server, col. 8 lines 1-28).

As to claim 28, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 22, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to:

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receive a text message from a party in a communications session; and forward the text message to the respective text communications device associated with each party to the communications session (col. 8 lines 1-28).

As to claim 29, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 28, wherein the party information further comprises a class identification designating respective parties as one of a participant and a monitor of the communications session (monitor window and activity, col. 14 line 59-col. 15 line 29).

As to claim 30, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 29, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to forward to each party to the communication session any text message related to the communications session that is received from a participant in the communications session, and to discard any text message related to the communications session that is received from a monitor of the communications session (relevant to the topic, col. 9 lines 37-67).

As to claim 31, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 22, wherein the collaboration services suite is further adapted to enable a new party to join the communications session (col. 9 lines 6-24).

As to claim 32, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 31, wherein, when the new party is a member of the team, the collaboration services suite is adapted to enable the new party to join the communications session as either a monitor or a participant (col. 9 lines 22-31).

As to claim 33, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 32, wherein, when the communications session is a public communications session, the team member

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interface is adapted to enable a team member to join the public communications session as the new party, independently of an invitation from any existing party to the public communications session (join the discussion, col. 9 lines 1-21).

As to claim 34, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 33, wherein, when the team member joins the public communications session as a participant, the collaboration services suite is adapted to forward a an announcement to each of the parties to the public communications session to advertise of the presence of the new party (col. 9 line 56-col. 10 line 36).

As to claim 35, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 31, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to receive an add-message from an existing party to the communications session, the add message containing at least information identifying the new party, and to forward an invitation message to the identified new party inviting the new party to join the communications session (this is a combination of claims 33-34).

As to claim 36, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 35, wherein the invitation message comprises at least at one of:

- an identifier of the team member who sent the invitation;

- a topic of the communications session;

- a message related to the discussion;

- a list of participants in the communications session; and

- a list of invitees to the communications session (this is a combination of claims 14, 25, and 26).

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As to claim 37, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 35, wherein the team member interface is adapted to enable the new party to send a response message to the collaboration services suite in response to the invitation (Note the rejection of claim 14 above).

As to claim 38, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 37, wherein the response message comprises any one of:

a decline message indicating that the new party wishes to decline the invitation; a join message indicating that the new party wishes to join the communications session; and a deferral message indicating that the new party wishes to join the communications session at a later time (Note the rejections of claims 14 and 37 above respectively).

As to claim 39, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 38, wherein, when the response message is a decline message, the collaboration services suite is adapted to forward an invitation declined message to the existing party from which the add-message was received (Note the rejections of claim 14 above).

As to claim 40, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 38, wherein, when the response message is a join message, the collaboration services suite is adapted to add the new party to the communications session and to notify each party to the communications session that the new party has joined the communications session (workers outside of the current worker's workgroup, col. 10 line 51-col. 11 line 3, and figs. 8-9).

As to claim 41, Tang inherently teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 38, wherein, when the response message is a deferral message, the collaboration services suite is adapted to advise the existing parties to the communications session of the deferral because Tang's operating environment uses email and the like in communications between team

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members (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8); therefore, users can setup the email to send new messages, invitation, meeting request or important news arrive to all other teams (or new teams) throughout a Network, and the sender (organizer of the meeting) will receive replications, which indicate accepting, rejecting, or deferring informations, from the team members (including new members).

As to claim 42, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to facilitate voice communications sessions between parties to the communications session (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and fig. 3).

As to claim 43, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 42, wherein communications session information displayed on the team member interface comprises at least one of:

an identifier associated with the team; a personal identifier associated with each party participating in the communications session; text information describing a session topic (figs. 5, and 8-9);

a record of one or more meeting notes entered by each party to the communications session; and a record of documents shared by the parties to the communications session (A chat room database, col. 11 lines 37-57).

As to claim 44, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 43, wherein the session topic is defined by a team member at a time of initiation of the communications session (fig. 9).

As to claim 45, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 42, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to establish a voice communications session between the parties to the communications session (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and fig. 3).

As to claim 46, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 45, wherein the voice communications session comprises a two-party voice communications session between first and a second voice communications devices respectively associated with first and second parties to the communications session (voice and video conference, col. 8 lines 1-28, and fig. 3).

As to claim 47, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 46, wherein each of first and second voice communications devices have respective unique addresses, and the collaboration services suite comprises a virtual switching point adapted to:

establish a call connection between a first service switching point (SSP) in a switched telephone network (STN) and the first voice communications device; establish a call connection between the first SSP and a second SSP in the STN; and establish a call connection between the second SSP in the STN and the second voice communications device to enable voice communications between the first and second voice communications devices (col. 14 lines 40-58).

As to claim 49, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 46, wherein each of first and second voice communications devices have respective unique extension numbers (machine identifier, col. 12 lines 17-60) on an enterprise network connected to the switched telephone network (STN) via a private branch exchange (PBX) (communication server 80, col. 12 line 61-col. 13 line 12), and the collaboration services suite sends a connection

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request message to the PBX to establish a two-party call connection between the first and second voice communications devices within the enterprise network (col. 14 lines 40-58).

As to claim 50, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 45, wherein the voice communications session comprises a multi-party voice communications session between three or more voice communications devices respectively associated with three or more parties to the communications session (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8).

As to claim 53, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 43, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to enable a new party to join the communications session (to add or remove a user, col. 11 lines 37-58).

As to claim 54, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 53, wherein, when the communications session is a public communications session, the team member interface is adapted to enable a team member to join the public communications session as the new party, independently of an invitation from any existing party to the public communications session (join the discussion, col. 9 lines 1-21).

As to claim 55, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 53, wherein the collaboration services suite is adapted to:

receive an add-message from an existing party to the communications session, the add message containing at least information identifying the new party; and forward an invitation message to the identified new party (col. 8 lines 1-28).

As to claim 56, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 38, wherein, when the response message is a join message, the collaboration services suite is adapted to:

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add party information identifying the new party to the session display (to add or remove a user, col. 11 lines 37-58); and

notify each team member involved in the communications session that the new party has joined the communications session (see claim 35 above).

As to claim 57, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 38 wherein, when the response message is a deferral message, the collaboration services suite is adapted to forward the deferral message to the existing party from which the add-message was received.

As to claim 58, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 53, wherein the communications session comprises an existing two-party voice communications session between first and a second voice communications devices respectively associated with first and second parties to the voice communications session, and the collaboration services suite is adapted to convert the two-party voice communications session into a multi-party voice communications session (see claim 41 above).

As to claim 61, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 53, wherein the communications session comprises an existing multi-party communications session using a conference bridge to connect at least three voice communications devices respectively associated with existing parties to the communications session, and the collaboration services suite is adapted to join the new party to the existing multi-party communications session (col. 13 lines 5-12, col. 14 lines 15-18, and figs. 3, 5-6, and 8).

As to claim 63, Tang teaches a distributed application for facilitating collaboration between geographically-dispersed members of a team, comprising:

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a collaboration services suite adapted to establish a multi-media communications session between two or more members of the team in response to a request from any one of the team members using a data network to enable an exchange of video content between data terminals of team members involved in the multi-media communications session, and a switched telephone network to enable exchange of voice content between voice communications devices of the team members involved in the multi-media communications session (this is a combination of claims 58 and 61).

As to claim 64, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 63 wherein the distributed application is further adapted to supply each data terminal with a data address of each other data terminal involved in the multi-media communications session to enable automatic setup the exchange of the video data (col. 7 line 65-col. 8 line 28, and col. 3 line 59-col. 4 line 14).

As to claim 65, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 63 wherein the distributed application further enables an exchange of at least one of documents and applications during the multi-media session (col. 3 line 59-col. 4 line 14).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,365) in view of Applicant Prior Art (APA).

As to claim 48, Tang teaches a distributed application as claimed in claim 47 wherein the call is connected between the first and second voice communications devices (see claim 47 above); however, Tang does not teach that the call connection between the first and second voice communications devices is completed in part over first and second Enhanced Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (E-ISUP) trunks in the STN. APA clearly states "the VSP 60 is adapted to interact with one or more Integrated Services Digital Network User Port (ISUP) trunk groups referred to enhanced ISUP (E-ISUP) trunks 62 to control the set up of call connections through the PSTN 48. This functionality is utilized by the collaboration services suite 2 to enable the establishment of multi-way communications sessions through a conventional conference bridge 64" is known in the art (Specification, page 32 lines 18-26). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention that the E-ISUP of APA could have been implemented in Tang's communication environment, so that Tang's system can be used to process a variety of connected sources throughout the Network.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 51, 52, 59, 60, and 62 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in combination with other claim limitations:

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The prior art of record fails to teach:

As to claim 51, each of the voice communications devices have respective unique dial numbers (DNs) in the STN, and the collaboration services suite comprises a virtual switching point (VSP) adapted to establish a call connection between a respective Enhanced Integrated Services Digital Network User Part (E-ISUP) trunk of the STN and each one of the voice communications devices, and to establish a call connection between each E-ISUP trunk and a conference bridge to enable voice communications between each of the voice communications devices via their respective E-ISUP trunks and the conference bridge.

As to claim 52, send a connection request message to the PBX to establish a two-party call connection between first and second voice communications devices on the enterprise network; send a connection request message to the PBX to establish a third-party call connection between the first voice communications device on the enterprise network and a conference bridge; send a connection request message to a virtual switching point in the public switched telephone network (PSTN) to establish a call connection between an E-ISUP trunk of the PSTN and a third voice communications device associated with a respective third party to the communications session; and establish a call connection between the E-ISUP trunk and the conference bridge to enable voice communications between the first voice communications devices via the conference bridge.

As to claim 59, each of the first and second voice communications devices have respective DN's on the PSTN, and the existing two-party voice communications session comprises a voice connection between the first and second voice communications devices via

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respective first and second E-ISUP trunk, the collaboration services suite comprises a virtual switching point adapted to:

- release a call connection between the first E-ISUP trunk and the second E-ISUP trunk;
- establish a call connection between the first E-ISUP trunk and a conference bridge;
- establish a call connection between the second E-ISUP trunk and the conference bridge;
- establish a call connection between a third E-ISUP trunk and a respective third voice communications device associated with the new party; and
- establish a call connection between the third E-ISUP trunk and the conference bridge.

As to claim 60, the existing two-party voice communications session comprises a two-party voice connection between first and second voice communications devices having respective unique extension numbers on an enterprise network connected to the PSTN via a private branch exchange (PBX), and the collaboration services suite is adapted to:

- send a connection request message to the PBX to establish a third-party call connection between the first voice communications device on the enterprise network and a conference bridge;

- send a connection request message to a virtual switching point in the PSTN to establish a call connection between an E-ISUP trunk in the PSTN and a third voice communications device associated with the new party; and

- establish a call connection between the E-ISUP trunk and the conference bridge to enable voice communications between each of the voice communications devices via the conference bridge.

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As to claim 62, the collaboration services suite comprises a virtual switching point adapted to:

establish a call connection between a respective EISUP trunk of the PSTN and the voice communications device associated with the new party; and

establish a call connection between the E-ISUP trunk and the conference bridge to enable voice communications between the each of the voice communications devices via their respective E-ISUP trunk and the conference bridge.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Baumgartner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,195,086) teach communications, team members, password, and identification (cols. 2-23 and figs. 1-25).

Hayden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,953,159) teach interaction, members, conference, and icons (cols. 2-36 and figs. 1-37).

Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,539) teach conference, interaction, members, communications, and icons (cols. 2-31 and figs. 2A-42).

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Ludwig et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,025) teach audio/video conference, team members, icons, email, and messages (cols. 4-41 and figs. 2A-42).

Riddle (U.S. Patent No. 5,857,189) teaches events, exchange information, members, and different communication devices (cols. 1-16 and figs. 1-7).

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Truc T. Chuong
August 25, 2003

Kristine Kincaid
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